1. INTRODUCTION/WELCOME

Ricardo welcomed everyone to the conference call.

2. LAND ISSUES IN AFRICA PROJECT

Tiago provided a brief summary of the discussion held half an hour earlier at another conference call. The Committee members involved in the project are planning on setting up a webinar or conference call series to discuss the most striking limitations to land ownership and use in Africa. Each of those would focus on one topic only (e.g. Gender Discrimination Limitations, then Nationality Restrictions, etc.) and try and cover all matters that have already been identified. The idea is to attract audiences with diversified interests such as human rights, business environment, and so forth.

3. POSSIBLE AFRICA COMMITTEE PROJECT: LEGAL TEXTS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

Ciatta proposed to resurrect a project, which was executed in the past (for Angola through the organization Books for Africa in 2011 and Zambia through USAID in 2010) in association with Thomson Reuters, to provide law books and legal materials to the Supreme Court of Liberia. Thomson Reuters would need an organization to work with and the ABA (and its SIL Africa Committee or the Judicial Institute) may be the perfect fit. Liberia’s Chief Justice has already been contacted and showed interest in this project. Ciatta
would be available to be in Liberia to follow this project through once the books would arrive there. Committee members were urged to propose other countries as recipients. If you are interested in helping with this project, kindly contact Ciatta at czbaysah@yahoo.com.

4. DEVELOPING TELECONFERENCES, BROWN-BAG LUNCHES AND STAND-ALONE PROGRAMS

It was noted that the Africa Committee has been fairly active in proposing programs and events for seasonal meetings but has not yet taken advantage of other meeting formats such as brown bag lunches, teleconferences/webinars and standalone meetings. Possible events being considered:

(i) Doing Business in Africa – Committee members were urged to inform whether they would be interested/willing to participate with a contribution on a specific country. In addition, Christina mentioned the possibility to host a Stand-Alone Program on the subject, listing a number of potential guest speakers. Kindly email Ricardo if you are interested.

(ii) Truth and Reconciliation program – Uchechi was not on the call – an update would be provided at the next committee call.

(iii) Land Issues in Africa – please see Item 2 above with Tiago's update on the subject.

(iv) Mali Situation – Joké mentioned the possibility to put together a teleconference on the crisis after consulting with the ABA leadership. The Africa Growth Initiative of the Brookings Institute could be a good co-sponsor and participant.

If you have any ideas for events or programs and would like the committee's support, kindly email Ricardo and Joké.

5. POLICY UPDATES

Angelia talked about policy initiatives:

Botswana
Research on women’s rights to access to land has been carried out and there is enough material for a formal letter to be drafted.

Zimbabwe
The possibility of preparing a letter about the death penalty was raised and this is being explored.

Africa in General
Would any Committee members be interested in studying and formalizing something in respect to LGBT communities in different African countries? If so, kindly email Angelia at Awade@aflcio.org.
6. **Other Business**

Joké mentioned that Committee member Norman Greene’s program described in the Fall/Winter edition of *Africa Law Today* would be held at the Spring Meeting. The program would be held on Thursday morning, April 25, at 8 a.m. entitled “Advancing Rule of Law Abroad through Next Generation Reform”.

Joké urged members to sign up to attend the Spring Meeting, taking advantage of the early bird registration fees (ends on March 3), and support the AC’s programs.

Kim urged Committee members to contribute with articles to the next issue of *Africa Law Today*.

A panel on Law and Development, to be held during the International Law Weekend in October, is being put together by Anne Bodley and Uchechi Anyanwu – further details to come.

Christina mentioned that the Africa Committee could seek the future collaboration of the Africa Justice Foundation, based in London, on programs and projects. This organization has held capacity law programs and is building a case law library in respect to different countries. It was suggested to contact said Africa Justice Foundation and invite them to participate on a future call to better introduce the Foundation and discuss the terms of cooperation with the Committee.

**The next call is at 1pm EST March 13 (Second Wednesday of the month)**